

# Results for our Parliament campaign

## A record of the religious beliefs of our MPs (updated August 2011)

In June 2010, just after the General Election, we wrote to all 650 MPs with a short questionnaire asking what their religious beliefs were. We have collated all the replies received so far into the table below. However, we continue to follow up non-repliers by encouraging our members to write to their own MPs if they happen to live in a constituency where the MP has not responded to our original survey.

If your own MP is not listed in the table below, please help us by writing to them to request this information. [See details of how to do this here.](#)

Response key: 1 = Are you? Atheist; Agnostic; Religious (practising); Religious lapsed; Other (specify).  
2 = What is your religious background?  
3 = What is your current religion?

Yellow highlights flag MPs describing themselves as atheists.

**Table 1: Collated responses in alphabetical order of MP surname**

Name	Constituency and party	Response	Comments
Adam Afriyie	Windsor (Con)	Did not return questionnaire, but did send a reply by letter. See 'Comments' column for extract.	"...faith plays a key role in our society...my religious beliefs remain as a private matter..."
Norman Baker	Lewes (LD)	1 Other (see Comments) 2 Anglicanism, Church of Scotland 3 Other (see Comments)	"I have my own belief system."
Tony Cunningham	Workington (Lab)	1 Religious (practising) 2 Roman Catholicism 3 Roman Catholicism	
David T C Davies	Monmouth (Con)	Did not return questionnaire, but did send a short reply by letter. See 'Comments' column for quote.	"Do you believe that religions should have protection from abuse as is currently the case?"
Mark Durkan	Foyle (SDLP)	1 Religious (practising) 2 Roman Catholicism 3 Roman Catholicism	
Maria Eagle	Garston and Halewood (Lab)	1 Atheist 2 Anglicanism 3 None	
Julie Elliott	Sunderland Central (Lab)	1 Atheist 2 Anglicanism 3 None	
Roger Gale	North Thanet (Con)	Did not return questionnaire, but did send a short reply by letter. See 'Comments' column for quote.	"I have noted your views which I do not share."
Duncan Hames	Chippenham (LD)	1 Religious (practising) 2 Anglicanism 3 Anglicanism	
David Hanson	Delyn (Lab)	Did not return questionnaire, but acknowledged receipt by postcard. See 'Comments' column.	Acknowledged receipt and content of our questionnaire; no further information or contact received.
Julian Huppert	Cambridge (LD)	1 Atheist 2 Judaism 3 None	
Jo Johnson	Orpington (Con)	1. Religious (practising/lapsed) 2. Anglicanism 3. Anglicanism	
Charles Kennedy	Ross, Skye and Lochaber (LD)	1 Religious (practising) 2 Roman Catholicism 3 Roman Catholicism	

Fiona Mactaggart	Slough (Lab)	Did not return questionnaire, but did send a reply by e-mail. See 'Comments' column for extract.	"I am an atheist, but I respect all those that do have a religious faith and I find that there is something you can learn from each of them."
Kerry McCarthy	Bristol East (Lab)	1 Atheist 2 Baptist 3 None	
Owen Paterson	North Shropshire (Con)	Did not return questionnaire, but did send a short reply by letter. See 'Comments' column for quote.	"If you know of anyone with a North Shropshire address who would be willing to write to me about this issue I would be happy to correspond with them."
John Penrose	Weston-super-Mare (Con)	1. Religious (lapsed) 2. Anglicanism 3. Not specified	"I try to adhere to Christian values, but I'm not a committed churchgoer at present."
Bob Russell	Colchester (LD)	1 Religious (lapsed) 2 Non-conformist Protestant 3 Non-conformist Protestant	
David Simpson	Upper Bann (DU)	1 Religious (practising) 2 Free Presbyterian 3 Christian/Protestant	
Jim Shannon	Strangford (DU)	1 Christian (see 'Comments') 2 Christian/Baptist 3 Christian/Baptist/Protestant	Practising or lapsed not specified.
Julian Smith	Skipton and Ripon (Con)	Did not return questionnaire, but did send a reply by letter. See 'Comments' column for extract.	"I am a Christian..." "The details of my personal faith are, I believe, a matter which should remain private to me."
Robin Walker	Worcester (Con)	1 Religious (practising) 2 Anglicanism 3 Anglicanism	
Valerie Vaz	Walsall South (Lab)	1 Religious (practising) 2 Roman Catholicism 3 Roman Catholicism	
Mike Weatherley	Hove (Con)	1 Atheist 2 Anglicanism 3 None	
Eilidh Whiteford	Banff and Buchan (SNP)	1 Religious (practising) 2 Other (not specified) 3 Other (not specified)	

## Comment

A minority of the 650 MPs have replied to our questionnaire so far. Of this total, some did not return a completed questionnaire, but did provide other information (see 'Comments' column where applicable). The response is disappointing. However, we acknowledge that MPs are not obliged to reply to requests for information that are not from members of their own constituencies.

That the majority of MPs did not reply to our questionnaire is perhaps an indication that openly stating ones religious beliefs in the world of politics where votes count is still a delicate subject.

Atheism intends to follow up this up by asking its members who live in constituencies where the MP has not responded to our survey to write to their MP to request this information – [see here for details](#).

Our thanks to all those MPs who did take the time to respond to our survey.